(a) the number of paddy procurement centres set up by the Food Corporation of India at present, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up such more centres in the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) A *statement* showing State-wise number of paddy purchase centres/mandies operated by Food Corporation of India during current 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. there is no Proposal to set up more purchase centres during the Kharif Marketing Season 1996-97.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Number of Paddy Purchase Centres Operated by FCI During 1996-97 Kharif Marketing Season

S. No.	State	No. of Centres (Provisional)
1.	Punjab	395
2.	Haryana	140
3.	U.P.	43
4.	Delhi	4
5.	Rajasthan	12
6.	Andhra Pradesh	252
7.	Madhya Pradesh	—
8.	West Bengal	58
9.	Karnataka	17
10.	Pondicherry	2
11.	Arunachal Pradesh	2
12.	Bihar	74
13.	Orissa	38
14.	H.P.	9
15.	Maharashtra	—
	Total:	1046

[Translation]

Arrest of Women

979. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the established norms and procedure to arrest women at night in the Country;

(b) whether the Government propose to make any amendments in the Cr. P.C. to stop the arrest of women at night; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be made and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAOBOOL DAR) : (a) Arrest of persons is governed by Chapter V of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973. No separate norms and procedures are prescribed in the Cr. P.C. for arresting women at night.

(b) Vide sub-clause (b) of clause 7 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 as introduced in the Rajya Sabha, it has been provided that no woman shall be arrested after sun set and before sun rise save in exceptional circumstances.

(c) It would not be possible at this stage to indicate the time by which the Bill be passed by both Houses of Parliament.

Decline in Agricultural Production due to Abnormal Monsoon

980. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Meteorological Department has warned the Government about the possibility of decline in the agricultural production due to abnormal monsoon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also taken any speedy and long term measures keeping in view the warning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The India Meteorological Department have forecast a normal south-west monsoon for the year 1997. Quantitatively, the rainfall for the country as a whole for the entire monsoon season (June to September) 1997 is forecast to be 92% of its long period average value within the model forecast error limit of ±4%.

(c) and (d) It is too early to assess the effect of deficient rainfall on the growth of the crops. State Governments have already been advised to formulate detailed contingency plans for crop production in order to meet any weather aberrations during kharif 1997. Further, to increase the productivity and production of various crops as a long term measure, the Government is implementing various centrally sponsored crop specific developmental programmes as stated below:

(i) Intensive Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas.

(ii) Accelerated Maize Development Programme.

(iii) Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

(iv) Special Jute Development Programme.

(v) Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System.

(vi) National Pulses Development Project.

(vii) Oilseeds Production Programme, etc.

[English]

Ban on Lotteries

981. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU :
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Members of Parliament called on the President of india and Prime Minister with an appeal to ban the State lotteries as contemplated under entry 40 to the Union List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, the main grounds adduced in support of their demand; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) A memorandum signed by 124 Members of Parliament was submitted to the President and the Prime Minister. The memorandum demands that an immediate ban be placed on the lottery trade by the Central Government as lottery is nothing but another form of gambling. It is further stated in the memorandum that, as a first step, 'single digit' lottery should be immediately banned by way of an executive order and then an appropriate legislation should be brought to ban any other form of lottery. The memorandum describes the lottery as a social evil which is playing havoc with the lives of the people.

Entry 40 of List I—Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India relates to "Lotteries organised by the Government of India or the Government of a State." The question of enacting a Central legislation on lotteries is under consideration of the Government.

Mangrove Forests

982. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale destruction of mangrove forests in some coasta States particularly in Orissa and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the prope preservation of the mangrove forests in the coastal States and

(d) the details of the plantation schemes announce for the growth of mangrove forests?